



Lectio DIVINA

***Lectio Divina* for the Solemnity of Christmas**

We begin our prayer:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, as we are bathed in the new radiance
of your incarnate Word,
the light of faith, which illumines our
minds,
may also shine through in our deeds.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity
of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

(Collect for the Mass at Dawn)

Reading (*Lectio*)

Read the following Scripture two or three times.

Luke 2:1-14

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for

her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Christ and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest
and on earth peace to those on whom
his favor rests."

Meditation (*Meditatio*)

After the reading, take some time to reflect in silence on one or more of the following questions:

- What word or words in this passage caught your attention?

- What in this passage comforted you?
- What in this passage challenged you?

If practicing lectio divina as a family or in a group, after the reflection time, invite the participants to share their responses.

Contemplation (Contemplatio)

Read the scripture passage again, followed by this reflection:

How does this passage connect with the experience of your daily life?

A decree went out . . . that the whole world should be enrolled. How do I consider the global implications of my actions, including votes, donations, and purchases? How do I support the Church's mission to preach the Gospel to all people?

There was no room for them in the inn. For what or whom do I not make room in my life? How can I be more welcoming to others, especially those in greatest need?

I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. What gives me joy? How does my joy reflect God's goodness to those around me?

Prayer (Oratio)

Read the scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.

After all have had a chance to make their prayer, all recite the Lord's Prayer and the following:

Closing Prayer:

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of him who brings glad
tidings,
announcing peace, bearing good news,
announcing salvation, and saying to
Zion,
"Your God is King!"

(Isaiah 52:7)

Copyright © 2016, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, DC. All rights reserved.

Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass for Use in the Dioceses of the United States of America, second typical edition* © 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Inc., Washington, DC. Used with permission. All rights reserved. No portion of this text may be reproduced by any means without permission in writing from the copyright owner.

Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal*, copyright © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.